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Organization: None

Title of Hearing: **Hearing on Responding to Long-Term Unemployment**

I have been unemployed since December 31, 2008. I received notice on November 21, 2008 that my job would be going away. Since that date, I have been working full time just looking for work. Prior to my last day on the job, I knew I would no longer be able to afford my home on little to no income. I fought for my home. I was able to get a loan modification through my mortgage company at that time in February 2009. I signed my final modification documents in April 2010, only to learn that 2 days later my loan was sold to another mortgage company. This NEW company is now requiring me to start the entire modification process over again. Biggest problem (besides not having a job with steady income) is that my current benefits will be exhausted on July 10, 2010. This means when the new mortgage company does their income verification, I will not have any and the year and a half I fought to KEEP my home will be for nothing – only to lose my home and scramble while STILL looking for work and raising my two kids on my own.

I called my unemployment office in Olympia, WA less than 2 weeks ago and I was told that my benefits will expire on July 10 because I still have a balance as of May 22. I asked what happens after that and I was told I would be done. No more extensions, no more help. Sorry. But come July 10, I'm screwed!

I work harder than ANYONE I know to find full time work. Washington State requires me to make three (3) job contacts a week. THREE! If you're only doing 3, you're not trying! I average 6-10 applications/submissions a week for employment. I also belong to 2 networking groups in my area. One meets bi-monthly and the other meets monthly. Both groups have helped me get to know people in my community and connect me to people who know people. When I apply for a job, I send out a notice to both my networking groups asking if anyone knows anyone there and some basic information. In addition to that, I use social networking online to try to get myself in the door of my next employer. LinkedIn.com and Facebook are my most common sites I use. For example, I will find someone in the company I just applied for, find them on LinkedIn and introduce myself.

I was appalled to read the quote by a Senator that said, "99 weeks is sufficient enough." WOW!! This coming from a man with a job, doesn't have to pay the household bills, buy food, buy gas for transportation, pay for clothes for the kids, etc. like "real world" people out here.

If I don't get help with Tier 5, I will once again fight not to lose my home and lose this time. My kids will starve, we'll be homeless, I'll lose my vehicle, and all my possessions. I don't have family to fall back on, no savings, no other money accounts as I've lived paycheck to paycheck for most of my life. My mother is unemployed and trying to get disability for her medical conditions that prevent her from working. She's living on her savings and has been for the last year.

If we can afford to pay for everything else this country has going on, why don't the unemployed who work their asses off looking for work get the help we need?

I work TOO hard to find a job to be told that I don't NEED anymore help.
WHAT?????!!?!?!?!?!?

Maybe something should be done like, checking job logs of the unemployed and see who's actually EARNING their benefits. Like me! I know some who only do the bare minimum and they piss me off. I need a job! I want a job! I just need more time to make ends meet and GET that job!

Not passing Tier 5 will be a HUGE MISTAKE! Millions of Americans will suffer, find themselves at the end of their rope, starve to death, lose even MORE homes and who's going to be to blame? Washington! We take better care of aliens coming to this country than we do our own born and raised "family" of Americans.

Please do something....

Respectfully and scared for the near future,

Briana D. Mattson